THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Pawan Hans Ltd., at present, has no proposal to introduce helicopter services for Gurez (Baramulla) and Tandgader in (Kupwara) since the fare would be very high making them commercially unviable.

Tourism Potentiality in West Bengal

1950. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make a comprehensive plan of action to develop Darjeeling, Sunderbans, Shankarpur, Kalimpong and different parts of West Bengal keeping in view to generate employment scope; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to prepare comprehensive plan of action for development of Tourism in the States, however, the Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for specific project proposals to the State Governments based on their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

The Government of West Bengal has prepared a project Report for the Development of Tourism in Sunderbans at an estimated cost of Rs. 600 lakhs and development of Tourism facilities at Alipurduar & adjoining areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 552.25 lakhs.

Coverage of AIR Network in States

1951. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of population covered by AIR stations State/UT-wise;

(b) whether a number of representations have been received by the Government to expand AIR Network in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to provide cent percent coverage to all the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details of percentage of population covered by AIR Stations in various States and Union Territories are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c). Since 01.04.94, a total of 25 representations for expansion/development of AIR network in the country have been received from different states as per details at enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e). Barring a few isolated pockets, radio coverage on Medium Wave/FM Transmitters is available throughout the country. In addition, radio coverage across the entire country is also available on Short Wave Band. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to reach hitherto uncovered areas subject to availability of necessary infrastructure facilities and resources.

STATEMENT- I

All India Radio

State-wise Coverage During Day-time

		Population % covered
1	2	3
	I. STATES	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	99
3.	Assam	86
4.	Bihar	*99
5.	Goa	*99
6.	Gujarat	*99
7.	Haryana	*99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	88
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	97
10	Karanataka	96
11.	Kerala	96.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	97
13.	Maharashtra	99
14.	Manipur	*99
15.	Meghalaya	96
16.	Mizoram	95
17.	Nagaland	97
18.	Orissa	98
19.	Punjab	*99
20.	Rajasthan	98.5
21.	Sikkim	95
22.	Tamil Nadu	99
23.	Tripura	*99
24.	Uttar Pradesh	97.5
25.	West Bengal	*99